

Results of Interviews with MA1 [REDACTED] USN  
on 15 & 16 Oct 2000

Master-at-Arms First Class (MA1) [REDACTED] USN, was interviewed by LCDR [REDACTED] briefly on 15 October 2000 and at length on 16 October. He is the Chief Master-at-Arms (CMAA) onboard USS COLE (DDG 67) and a member of the command's Force Protection Team (FP Team), along with GM1 [REDACTED] FCC [REDACTED], ISC [REDACTED] ENS [REDACTED] LTJG [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED] the Force Protection Officer.

MA1 [REDACTED] stated that two months prior to the COLE's deployment all members of the FP Team attended the Force Protection / Anti-Terrorism (FP/AT) course taught by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) mobile training team in Little Creek, Virginia.

He said that Mr. [REDACTED] was the director of the NCIS FP/AT course. At that course one of the instructors noted that Yemen was a possible site for a suicide-swimmer attack.

MA1 [REDACTED] confirmed that there was no formal Force Protection brief prior to the scheduled BSF for Aden, Yemen. The ship was in Threatcon Bravo at the time of the explosion on 12 October. The damage control status for the BSF was modified zebra, main deck and below. The COLE had set modified zebra since starting their patrol in the Adriatic Sea and continued through their transit of the Suez Canal and Red Sea.

In terms of Force Protection training, the Team conducted formal training during the cruise. The training was entitled "Med-Arabian University" and was conducted on the mess decks. The topics of the training were the countries within the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet AORs. The personnel who attended these briefings were generally officers, chief petty officers, Fire Controlmen, Operations Specialists, and combat systems types who were not otherwise on watch. The audience for the training was usually around 30-50 people.

MA1 [REDACTED] recalled that during one "Med-Arabian" briefing it was noted that a specific terrorist threat [REDACTED] might try to strike a U.S. warship in the 6<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet areas.

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The next "Med-Arabian" brief was scheduled for 12 October 2000 at 1300, after the ship was to get underway from its BSF in Aden, Yemen. The last "Med-Arabian" brief conducted prior to the Aden BSF was held on 11 October, and the Yemen threat information was not mentioned that day.

Encl (104)  
Page 2 of 2